

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of propagating changes to a table, comprising the steps of:
- 2 maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;
- 3 maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site; and
- 4 transmitting changes to the first copy of the table from the first site to the second site;
- 5 updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the transmitted
- 6 changes;
- 7 wherein the first copy of the table and the second copy of the table have at least one
- 8 non-overlapping column.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping column is present in the first
- 2 copy and missing in the second copy.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping column is missing in the first
- 2 copy and present in the second copy.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reconciling differences in
- 2 the column shape of the first copy and the column shape of the second copy for the
- 3 transmitted changes.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a top flavor
- 2 describing overlapping columns and non-overlapping columns of the table.

3 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

4 defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first copy; and

5 transmitting an indicator of the first flavor from the first site to the second site.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

2 defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second copy; and

3 wherein the step of updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on

4 the transmitted changes includes the step of updating overlapping columns

5 between the first flavor and the second flavor in the second copy of the table.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

2 the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of

3 maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site; and

4 the step of maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site includes the step of

5 maintaining a master table at a master site.

1 9. A method of modifying a table to drop a first column and add a second column,
2 said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, comprising the steps of:

3 (a) defining a first flavor for a first site, said first flavor describing the table as having

4 both the first column and the second column;

5 (b) adding the second column to the table at the first site, so that the table contains

6 both the first column and the second column;

7 (c) defining a second flavor for a second site, said second flavor describing the table

8 as having the second column but not the first column;

9 (d) dropping the first column and adding the second column to the table at the second
10 site;

- 11 (e) defining the second flavor for the first site and dropping the first column from the
12 table at the first site;
13 (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e).

- 1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining replication activities
2 includes the steps of:
3 transmitting changes to the table from the first site to the second site; and
4 updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on overlapping columns
5 between the first flavor and the second flavor.

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